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Racial Disparities in Buffalo

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Racial Disparities in Buffalo

Abstract

This fact sheet examines data on racial disparities in Buffalo and, where possible, compares it with data from four other medium-sized cities with similar racial composition. Buffalo is the 8th most segregated metropolitan area in the nation. Segregation is prominent not only in the region, but also within the city, with South Buffalo consisting of 96% whites and 1% African Americans and Masten Community consisting of 87% African Americans.

Keywords

Buffalo, Equality/Civil Rights, Race, Fact Sheet, PPG, PDF

Racial Disparities in Buffalo

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Introduction

This fact sheet examines data on racial disparities in Buffalo and, where possible, compares it with data from four other medium-sized cities with similar racial composition.

Areas Similar to Buffalo in Racial Composition

Population Composition by Race/Ethnicity
(For year: 2000)¹

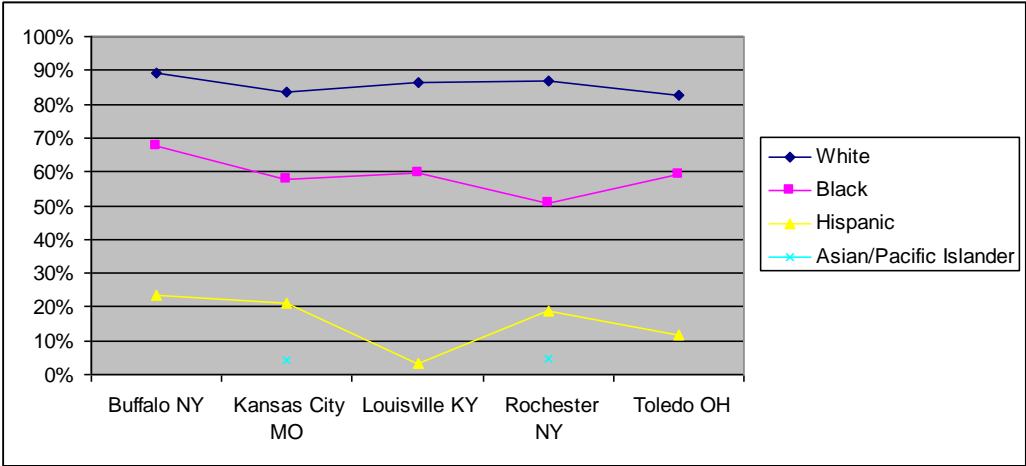
Metropolitan Area	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander
<i>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</i>	82.5%	2.9%	12.0%	1.5%
<i>Kansas City, MO</i>	78.3%	5.2%	13.2%	2.1%
<i>Louisville, KY</i>	82.0%	1.6%	14.3%	1.4%
<i>Rochester, NY</i>	82.2%	4.3%	10.6%	2.2%
<i>Toledo, OH</i>	80.1%	4.4%	13.3%	1.4%

Segregation in Buffalo

Buffalo is the 8th most segregated metropolitan area in the nation. Segregation is prominent not only in the region, but also within the city, with South Buffalo consisting of 96% whites and 1% African Americans and Masten Community consisting of 87% African Americans.²

In the average neighborhood where blacks live, 67.5% of neighbors are black. In the average neighborhood where whites live, 89.0% of neighbors are white. However, in the average neighborhood where Hispanics live, only 23.3% of neighbors are Hispanic.³ Thus, Hispanic children in Hispanic neighborhoods have a much higher degree of potential contact with children of various racial/ethnic groups than children in predominantly black and white neighborhoods.

**Segregation of the Child Population: Isolation by Race/Ethnicity
(For year: 2000)**

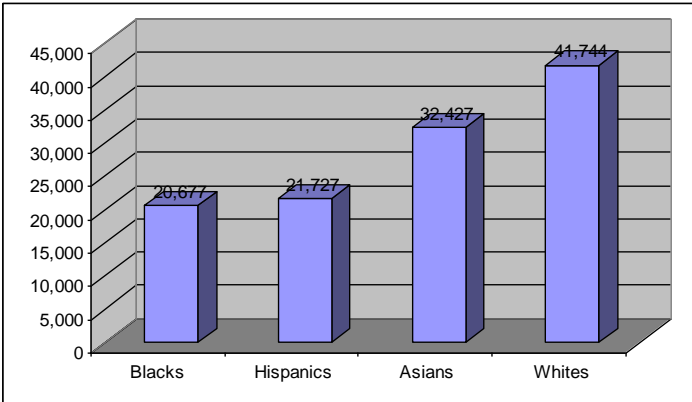


Definition: Isolation is a segregation measure referring to the degree of potential contact, or the possibility of interaction, between people of the same racial group. For instance, the black isolation index provides the average proportion of neighbors that are black, for the average neighborhood where blacks live.

Notes: Children are defined as those under age 18.

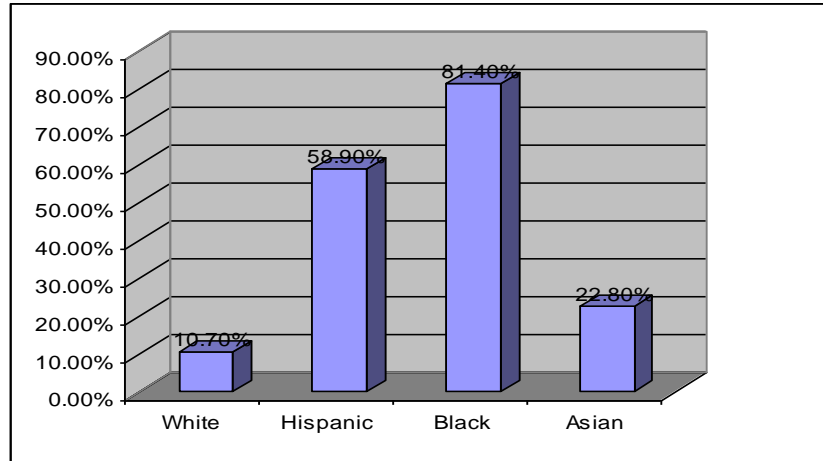
Median Household Income in Buffalo

Median Household Income in Dollars (For Year: 1999)⁴



Living in High Poverty Neighborhoods in Buffalo

**Share of Population Living in High Poverty Neighborhoods
by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)**⁵



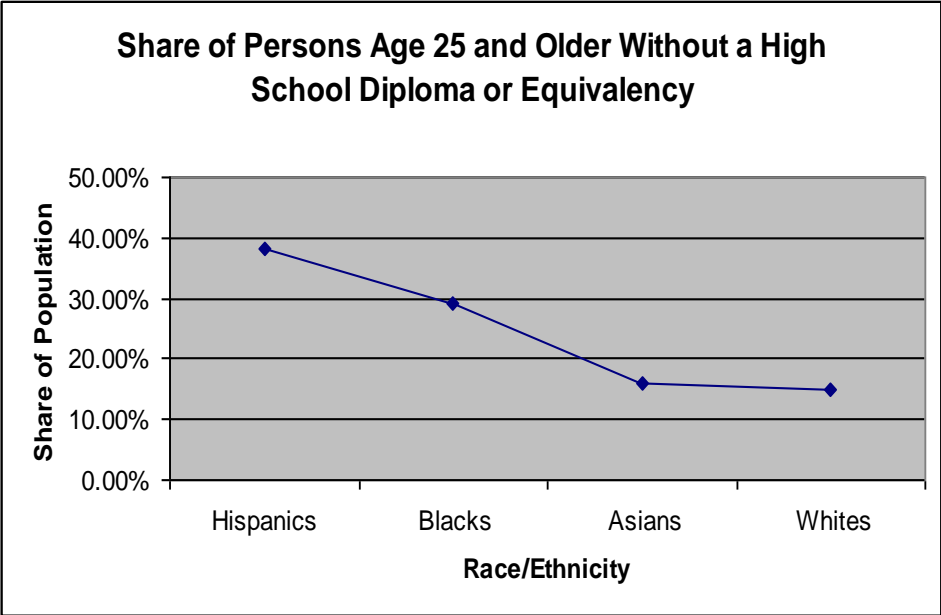
Definition: The share of people living in neighborhoods in which 20% or more of the population is in poverty.

**Share of Population Living in High Poverty Neighborhoods
by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)**⁶

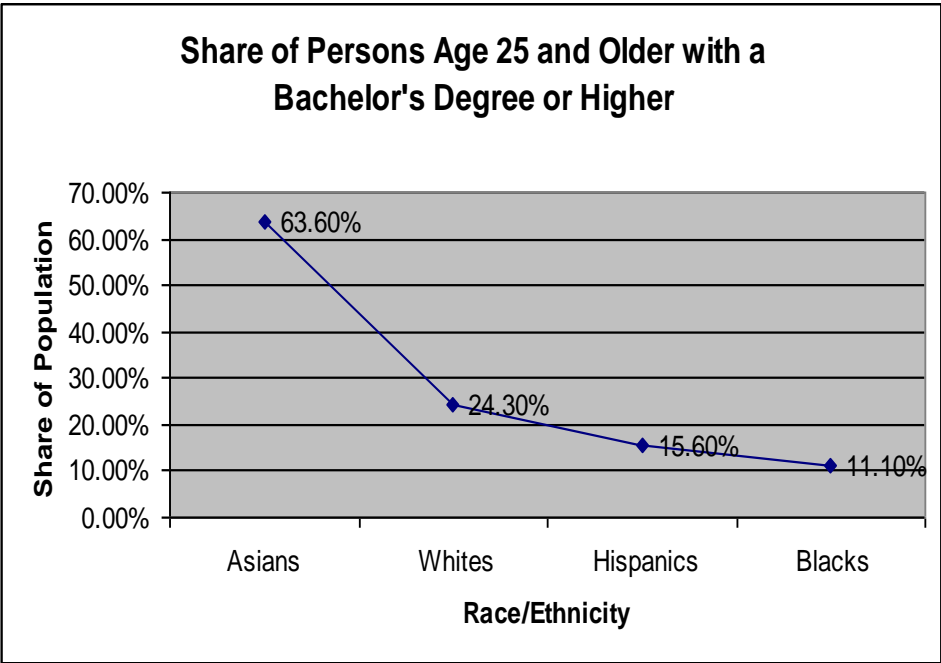
Metropolitan Area	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian
<i>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</i>	10.7%	58.9%	81.4%	22.8%
<i>Kansas City, MO</i>	3.5%	32.0%	43.0%	11.6%
<i>Louisville, KY</i>	6.8%	18.2%	59.0%	13.8%
<i>Rochester, NY</i>	4.9%	48.3%	57.0%	15.7%
<i>Toledo, OH</i>	14.1%	37.7%	68.5%	21.8%

Definition: The share of people living in neighborhoods in which 20% or more of the population is in poverty.

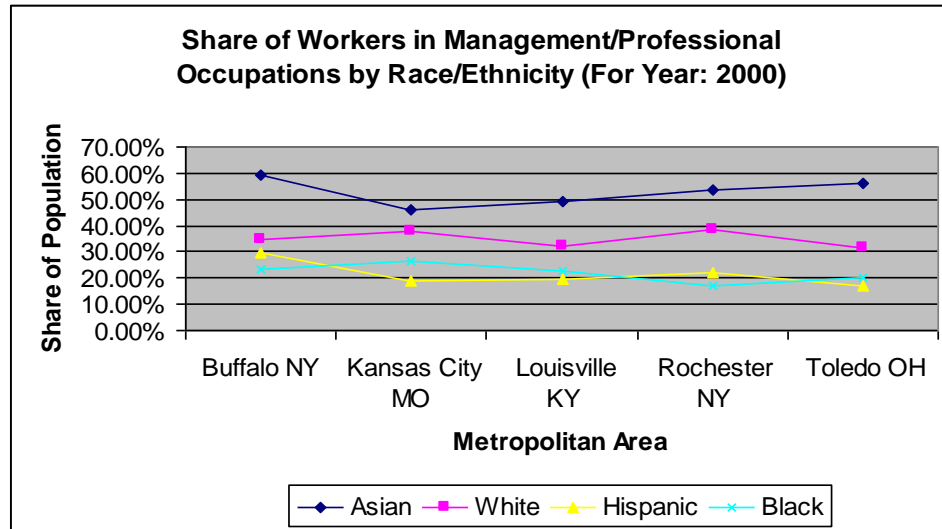
Persons Without High School Diploma/ Equivalency in Buffalo⁷



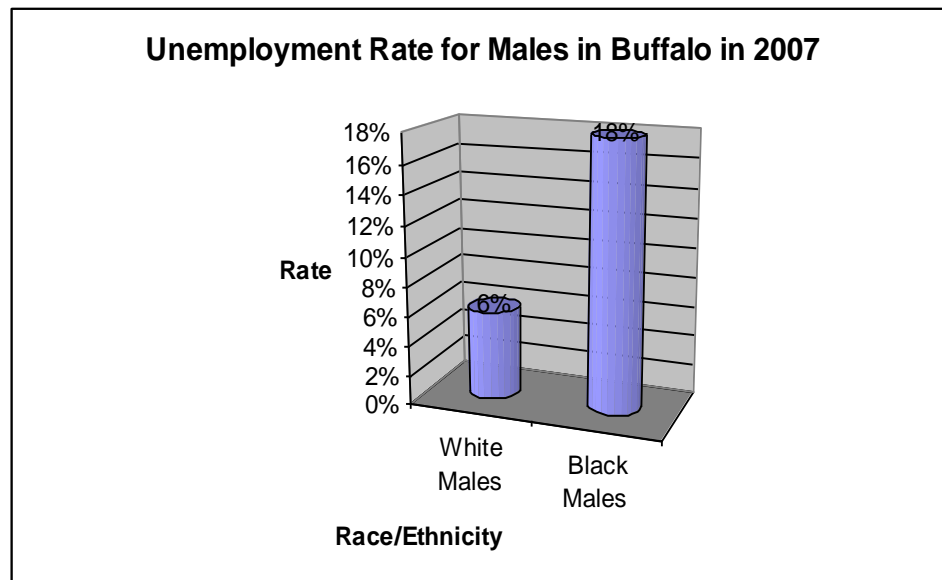
Person With Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Buffalo⁸



Share of Workers in Management/ Professional Occupations⁹



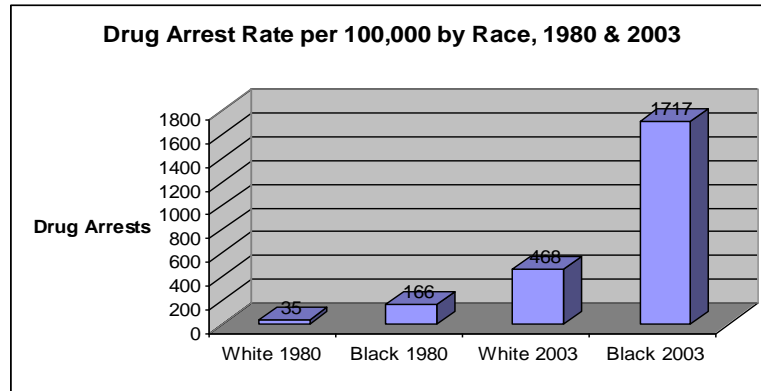
Unemployment Rates¹⁰



The “War on Drugs” and Changes in the Drug Arrest Rate

From 1980 through 2003, the drug arrest rate increased by 1,204% for whites and by 930% for African Americans in Buffalo.¹¹

- Buffalo was the only city studied that increased its white arrest rate by more than 500%.¹²
- Drug arrest rate per 100,000 for 2003 was 468 for whites and 1,717 for African Americans.¹³ However, the white population is more than six times greater than the African American population.¹⁴
- African Americans are still arrested for drugs at a much higher rate than whites.¹⁵



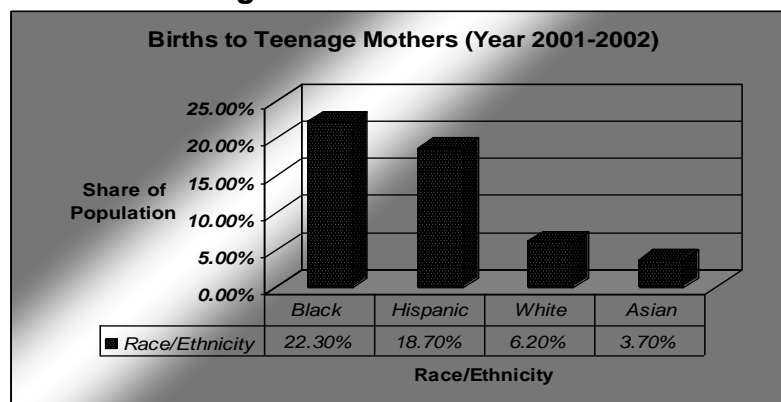
Changes in Drug Arrest Rate per 100,000 by Race, 1980-2003¹⁶

	<i>White 1980</i>	<i>White 2003</i>	<i>Change 1980- 2003</i>	<i>Black 1980</i>	<i>Black 2003</i>	<i>Change 1980- 2003</i>
<i>Buffalo, NY</i>	35	468	1204%	166	1717	930%
<i>Kansas City, MO</i>	139	699	400%	326	3202	881%
<i>Louisville, KY</i>	763	950	24%	721	3227	347%
<i>Toledo, OH</i>	96	307	218%	175	1730	884%

Drug Imprisonment Rate

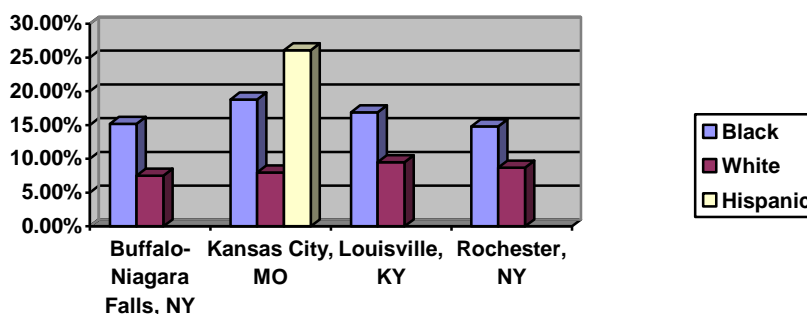
In 2007, the drug admission rate in Erie County was 3.41 for whites and 103.66 for blacks. Thus, the ratio of black to white drug admission rates was 30 to 1.¹⁷

Births to Teenage Mothers¹⁸



Proportion of Population Without Health Insurance.

Proportion of Population without health insurance by Race/Ethnicity¹⁹



Definition: Proportion of people that did not have health insurance in the past year, calculated for each racial group, averaged across years 1997, 1999, and 2001.

Disability Rates

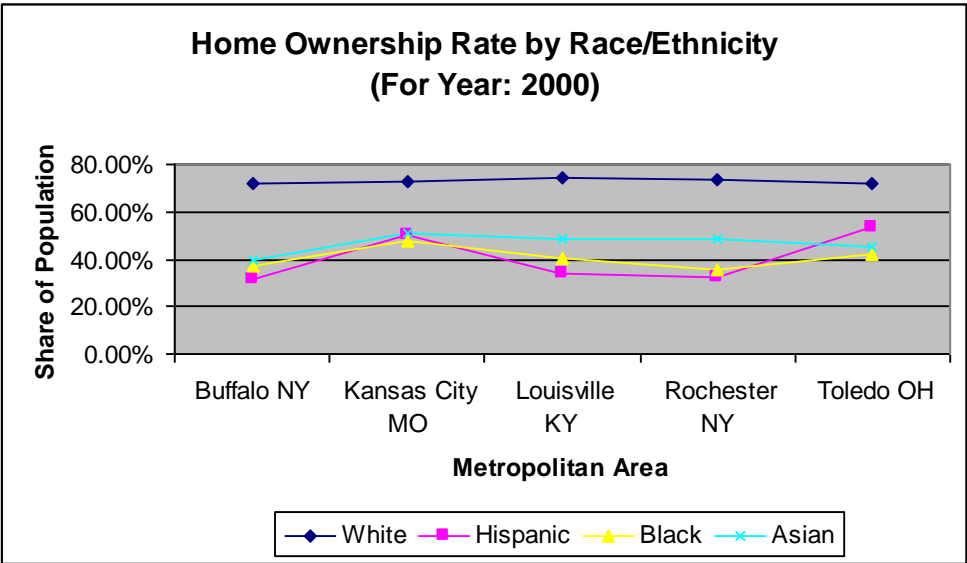
In the Buffalo metropolitan area, African Americans have the highest disability rate (27.1%) and Hispanics have the second highest disability rate (26.3%). Native Americans have a disability rate of 23.3%, Whites 15.3% and Asians 13.5%.²⁰

Disability rates by Race/Ethnicity
(For year: 2000)

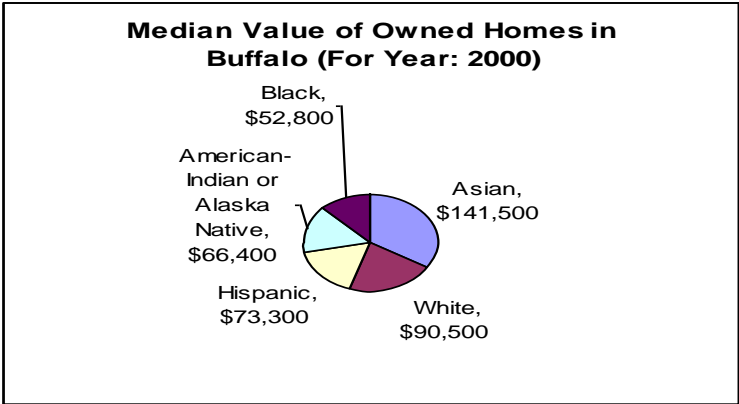
Metropolitan Area	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Asian
<i>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</i>	27.1%	26.3%	23.3%	15.3%	13.5%
<i>Kansas City, MO</i>	22.9%	18.9%	22.5%	14.1%	15.3%
<i>Louisville, KY</i>	23.7%	21.0%	33.6%	17.0%	14.9%
<i>Rochester, NY</i>	24.6%	24.6%	24.2%	14.2%	13.3%
<i>Toledo, OH</i>	24.9%	18.8%	30.7%	15.8%	11.7%

Definition: Disability rates are the proportion of the population with a disability, for whom disability status is known, out of the civilian non-institutionalized population aged 5 and over.

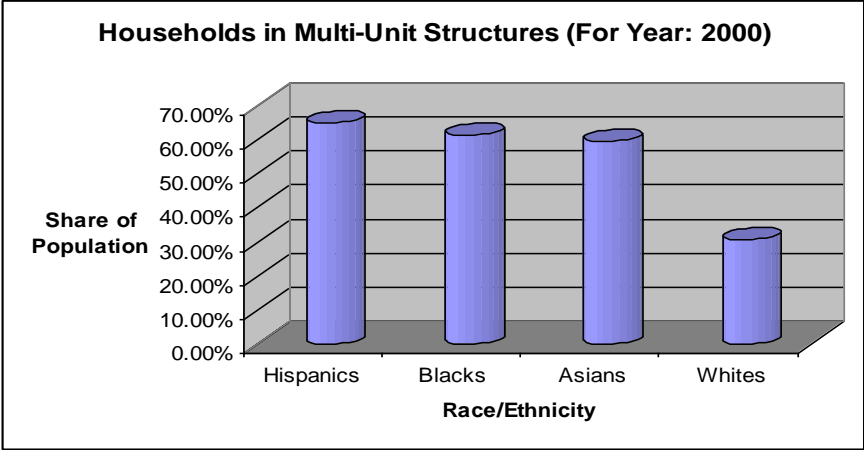
Home Ownership Rates²¹



Median Value of Owned Homes²²



Living in Multi-Unit Household Structures in Buffalo²³



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- ¹ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Population Composition by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000; Ordered alphabetically)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=565>.
- ² Sam Magavern, et al., *Missing the Target: How Economic Development Programs Have Failed to Revive Buffalo's Most Challenged Neighborhoods*, A Partnership for the Public Good Report (2009), <http://ppgbuffalo.org/resources/Missing+the+Target+2009+02+09.pdf>.
- ³ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Segregation of the Child Population: Isolation by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000; Ordered alphabetically)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=573>.
- ⁴ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Median Household Income: 1999 by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 1999)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=17>.
- ⁵ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Share of Population Living in High Poverty Neighborhoods by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=545>.
- ⁶ *Id.*
- ⁷ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Share of Adults Without High School Diploma: 200 by Race/ Ethnicity (For year: 2000; Ordered alphabetically)* (2000), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=356>.
- ⁸ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Share of Adults With Bachelor's Degree or Higher by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=358>.
- ⁹ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Share of Workers in Management/Professional Occupations by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=360>.
- ¹⁰ Sam Magavern, et al., *Missing the Target: How Economic Development Programs Have Failed to Revive Buffalo's Most Challenged Neighborhoods*, A Partnership for the Public Good Report (2009), <http://ppgbuffalo.org/resources/Missing+the+Target+2009+02+09.pdf>.
- ¹¹ Ryan S. King, *Disparity By Geography: The War on Drugs in America's Cities*, The Sentencing Project: Research and Advocacy for Reform (2008), www.sentencingproject.org/Admin/Documents/publications/dp_drugarrestreport.pdf.
- ¹² *Id.*
- ¹³ *Id.*
- ¹⁴ *Id.*
- ¹⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Targeting Blacks* (2008), <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/62236/section/8>.
- ¹⁶ Ryan S. King, *Disparity By Geography: The War on Drugs in America's Cities*, The Sentencing Project: Research and Advocacy for Reform (2008), www.sentencingproject.org/Admin/Documents/publications/dp_drugarrestreport.pdf.
- ¹⁷ A Justice Policy Institute Report, *The Vortex: The Concentrated Racial Impact of Drug Imprisonment and the Characteristics of Punitive Counties* (2007), http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/07-12_REP_Vortex_AC-DP.pdf.
- ¹⁸ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Births to teenage mothers by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2001-2002)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=263>.
- ¹⁹ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Proportion of population without health insurance by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 1997-2001)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=254>.
- ²⁰ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Disability Rates by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=246>.
- ²¹ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Home Ownership Rate: 2000 By Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007), <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=535>.

²² DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Median value for owned homes by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007),
<http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=10>.

²³ DiversityData & Harvard School of Public Health, *Households in Multi-Unit Structures by Race/Ethnicity (For year: 2000)* (2007),
<http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/rankings.jsp?i=315>.